

South Sound Science Symposium, May 6, 2009



Agenda

8:00-8:30 *Registration, Coffee & Poster Set-up*

8:30-9:40 **WELCOME & CONTEXT**

Welcome and Introductions

Mindy Roberts, WA Department of Ecology, and Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe

Keynote: Squaxin Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Charlene Krise, Squaxin Island Tribe

Moderator Opening Remarks

Trina Wellman, Northern Economics/Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel

From Indicators to Action: Using Data to Improve Environmental Health. Newly implemented environmental health indicators for shellfish growing area pollutants, swimming beach advisories, mercury and PCBs in salmon, and stream flow, precipitation and aquifer levels.

Ray Hanowell & Marianne Seifert, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

9:40-10:00 **PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL PROCESSES**

Geology - the Foundation for South Sound Life. Review of South Sound geology and influences on the ecological landscape.

Wendy Gerstel, Qwg Applied Geology

10:00-10:20 *Break & Poster Viewing*

10:30-11:10 **PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL PROCESSES (Continued)**

Airflow in South Sound: Friend or Foe? Focus on the use of back-trajectory analysis to find possible source regions for pollutants arriving in the South Sound.

Clint Bowman, WA Department of Ecology

Going with the Flow: South Sound Water Circulation. Description of the particularly complicated circulation patterns in South Sound that determine the marine equivalent of upstream and downstream.

Skip Albertson, WA Department of Ecology

11:10-12:10 **BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY & FOOD WEB DYNAMICS**

Productivity and Nutrient Sources in Totten Inlet in the Context of Greater Puget Sound. Study of trophic support (stable isotopes) and productivity (growth rates) has revealed spatial and temporal patterns relevant to coastal zone management.

Jennifer Ruesink, University of Washington

Geographic Patterns of Fish and Jellyfish in South Sound Surface Waters. Study explores whether changes in fish and jellyfish distribution are natural history footnotes or potential indicators of ecological health.

Casey Rice, NOAA/Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Mysterious Pre-spawn Mortality of Coho Salmon in Urbanized Streams. New predictive, spatially explicit model of coho pre-spawn mortality rates for the eastern Puget Sound basin.

Blake Feist, NOAA/Northwest Fisheries Science Center

12:15-1:45 Lunch & Poster Viewing

1:15-1:30 A Regional Effort to Select Environmental Indicators for the Puget Sound.

Where we've been, where we're going, and South Sound involvement.

Sandie O'Neill, NOAA

1:50-2:30 BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY & FOOD WEB DYNAMICS (Continued)

Nisqually Chinook Population Response to Large-Scale Estuary Restoration. A study of Chinook distribution, feeding behavior, growth, and estuary residence to provide a baseline comparison for how the population may respond to large-scale ecosystem restoration.

Chris Ellings, Nisqually Tribe

Changes in the Abundance of Shorebirds at Kennedy Creek Estuary. Potential influence of species interactions among native and/or exotic species on shorebird abundance suggests that establishing baseline conditions for monitoring will require a greater understanding of community dynamics in estuarine ecosystems.

Joe Buchanan, Cascadia Research/WA Department of Fish & Wildlife

2:30- 2:50 HUMAN INFLUENCES & ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSORS

Human Influences on the Deschutes River, Capitol Lake & Budd Inlet. Human activities have unintentionally unraveled a variety of ecological processes manifested in high water temperatures, bacteria concentrations, and fine sediment levels, as well as low dissolved oxygen concentrations.

Mindy Roberts, WA Department of Ecology

2:50-3:10 Break & Poster Viewing

3:20-4:30 HUMAN INFLUENCES & ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSORS (Continued)

Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products from South Sound Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Results from new study of influent, secondary and tertiary effluents and biosolids sampled at four well operated wastewater treatment plants.

Brandi Lubliner, Department of Ecology

Analysis of South Sound Shoreline Change from Historic Conditions. Evaluation of factors causing habitat declines and pollution in the South Sound basin.

Doug Myers, People For Puget Sound/PSNERP

4:00-4:30 Moderator, Closing Remarks

Trina Wellman, Northern Economics/Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel

4:30-6:30 Reception & Poster Gala

